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## Loose lips sink countries

Good students of public affairs will refuse to reach any conclusion without first filtering what's been said for attribution through the pure candor of anonymous sources. In the case of current Nicaraguan affairs, the scuttlebutt has it that the secretary of defense is leaking all the good stuff — publicly. What he's saying — that the U.S. has no military contingency plans — is hard to believe.

The president, much to his credit, has continued to characterize the communist presence in Central America as a threat to our national security. And just last week, Mr. Reagan was on television reminding everyone that armed might has its place in the affairs of nations. So it follows that there's some kind of military plan available should the Central American threat to our national security — which is one of the few threats you could take a bus to — get out of hand. If anyone had told us differently, we would have quarreled.

Anonymous officials, often the purveyors of bad news, have stated that contingency plans for the use of U.S. combat troops in Central America have been drafted. Thank heavens. They stressed, of course, that the plans do not differ from those drawn up for other trouble spots. Routine business, properly disposed of.

So it was dismaying when Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger leaked this bit of information on national television Sunday: "There is no plan of that kind, nor is there any necessity for it."

If there is no contingency plan for deploying combat troops in Central America, there should be a congressional investigation to find out why. Otherwise, the administration shouldn't keep saying it's Congress alone that's preparing to give Central America away to the communists, and that it is willing to protect this country's interests at any cost.